



JOSEPHINE LYDWIG
AS CARMEN



G. A. HARKER



ETHEL HOUSTON DU FRE,
Niece of Sam Houston,
Who Has Just Made
Her Debut in America.

THE OPERA SEASON IN ST. LOUIS.

THE opera season in St. Louis is now in full swing. The new season of the Castle Square Opera Company, which has been running since the beginning of the season, is now in its third week. The company, which was organized by Mr. J. H. Smith, has been very successful in its performances. The new season of the Castle Square Opera Company, which has been running since the beginning of the season, is now in its third week. The company, which was organized by Mr. J. H. Smith, has been very successful in its performances.

Ludwig has the satisfaction of being the first to reveal the essential phases of the character. And it is a part of what survives even such a method of performance. Another critic said: "Josephine Lydwig, who took the title role, sang with much power. Her voice, though not of great power, is thoroughly sympathetic, and at times she caught the meaning of the character of the true woman."

The Evening World said: "Beauty and grace are the gifts of Josephine Lydwig, the new Carmen of the Castle Square Opera Company. She was most effective in the production at the Broadway Theatre." The Tribune said: "As compared with last season's performances at the Metropolitan Opera-house, that of last night in the Broadway Theatre benefited, vocally, calisthenically. Miss Josephine Lydwig evoked the part of the fiery storm, and did not depart widely from conventional lines, though she could do no more than suggest her model in song and action."

And still another critic says: "Carmen" is conceded to have been the best of the serious work rendered by the company. Reginald Roberts, who was Don Jose to Miss Lydwig's Carmen, did justice to his part. It was Miss Lydwig's first appearance in this role in the metropolis. Her Carmen was certainly a pleasing creature to look upon, with no small suggestion of the subtle fascination that Merimee's heroine has come to typify. At the same

time, Mr. Roberts' Don Jose was a handsome fellow, who developed an extraordinary amount of tense passion as the acts succeeded one another. Always intelligent as an actor, he succeeded admirably with the dramatic requirements of the part. As to voice, also, he was at his best, and his interpretation of the role was highly satisfactory. The stabbing scene was an excellently managed piece of stage business, for which Miss Lydwig deserved as much credit as did Mr. Roberts.

Another hit of the New York season was "La Gioconda," which is to be presented in grand opera by the Maurice Grau company next season. In this Miss Lydwig sang Laura, and shared honors equally with Miss Norwood. Miss Lydwig was Pitti Sing in "The Mikado" at the closing performance.

Mr. Southwell has not announced the names of his principal tenors, sopranos, contraltos and basses, but to his personal friends he has said that he was negotiating with singers of the highest ability, and he promises that his winter season will excite his summer one at Delmar.

MARION IVEL, A NEW CONTRALTO.

by the smaller audience room. The singers could be heard. Poetry and refinement, which are essential to save the play from vulgarity, were missing, but the things which took their place seemed to give great

most throaty, quality that was due, obviously, to faults of method and not defects of natural endowments. These, however, were overcome in the succeeding performance.

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